

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2125

Introduced by Assembly Member Ridley-Thomas

February 20, 2014

An act to amend Section 8265 of the Education Code, relating to child care.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2125, as introduced, Ridley-Thomas. Child care: standard reimbursement rate: adjustment.

Existing law establishes a system of child care and development services for children from infancy to 13 years of age and provides certain requirements for the payment by the state for these child care and development services. Existing law requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to implement a plan that establishes reasonable standards and assigned reimbursement rates, as provided, and requires the standard reimbursement rate to be \$3,523 per unit of average daily enrollment for a 250-day year, increased by the cost-of-living adjustment granted by the Legislature.

This bill would add an authorization to adjust that standard reimbursement rate to provide adequate compensation for education and training.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 8265 of the Education Code is amended
2 to read:

1 8265. (a) The Superintendent shall implement a plan that
2 establishes reasonable standards and assigned reimbursement rates,
3 which vary with the length of the program year and the hours of
4 service.

5 (1) Parent fees shall be used to pay reasonable and necessary
6 costs for providing additional services.

7 (2) When establishing standards and assigned reimbursement
8 rates, the Superintendent shall confer with applicant agencies.

9 (3) The reimbursement system, including standards and rates,
10 shall be submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee.

11 (4) The Superintendent may establish any regulations he or she
12 deems advisable concerning conditions of service and hours of
13 enrollment for children in the programs.

14 (b) The standard reimbursement rate shall be three thousand
15 five hundred twenty-three dollars (\$3,523) per unit of average
16 daily enrollment for a 250-day year, increased by the cost-of-living
17 adjustment granted by the Legislature beginning July 1, 1980, *or*
18 *as adjusted to provide adequate compensation for education and*
19 *training.*

20 (c) The plan shall require agencies having an assigned
21 reimbursement rate above the current year standard reimbursement
22 rate to reduce costs on an incremental basis to achieve the standard
23 reimbursement rate.

24 (d) (1) The plan shall provide for adjusting reimbursement on
25 a case-by-case basis, in order to maintain service levels for agencies
26 currently at a rate less than the standard reimbursement rate.
27 Assigned reimbursement rates shall be increased only on the basis
28 of one or more of the following:

29 ~~(1)~~

30 (A) Loss of program resources from other sources.

31 ~~(2)~~

32 (B) Need of an agency to pay the same child care rates as those
33 prevailing in the local community.

34 ~~(3)~~

35 (C) Increased costs directly attributable to new or different
36 regulations.

37 ~~(4)~~

38 (D) Documented increased costs necessary to maintain the prior
39 year's level of service and ensure the continuation of threatened
40 programs.

1 ~~Child~~

2 (2) *Child* care agencies funded at the lowest rates shall be given
3 first priority for increases.

4 (e) The plan shall provide for expansion of child development
5 programs at no more than the standard reimbursement rate for that
6 fiscal year.

7 (f) The Superintendent may reduce the percentage of reduction
8 for a public agency that satisfies any of the following:

9 (1) Serves more than 400 children.

10 (2) Has in effect a collective bargaining agreement.

11 (3) Has other extenuating circumstances that apply, as
12 determined by the Superintendent.

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